(b) and (c) A Survey for new rail link from Siviok to Rangpo has been taken up. 2-laning with paved shoulder of 41 km. of existing NH-31A from West Bengal border to Gangtok is included in Phase-A of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North-Eastern region (SARDP-NE) to be implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). This is targeted for completion by March, 2009.

Compensation to Mumbai blasts victims

†1143. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of victims of Mumbai rail bomb blasts provided with the compensation, alongwith the amount thereof;

(b) the number of victims who have not received any compensation till now; and

(c) the steps taken to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal by the victims or by dependents of the deceased passengers. Upto 23.11.2006, 272 compensation claims have been filed. However, Railways have disbursed *ex-gratia* at enhanced rates, the details of which are as follows:—

Classification	No. of cases	No. of cases in which ex-gratia paid	Rate of ex-gratia	Amount paid. (Rs. in crores)	No. of cases pending	Reason for delay
Death	187	186	Rs. 5 lakhs	9.30	1	Body unidentified
Grievous injury	540	531	Rs. 50,000/-	2.65	9	Addresses of the injured not available.
Simple injury	327	315	Rs. 10,000/-	0.315	12	-do-
TOTAL:	1054	1032	-	12.265	22	

(c) The following measures are being taken to improve security arrangements at important and vulnerable railway stations:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1. Installation of Close Circuit Television at vulnerable Railway Stations.
2. Modern security gadgets like Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Entry Scanners / X-Rays Machines etc. to strengthen access control at entry/exit points;
3. Dog Squads, Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads at various divisions and railway stations to conduct anti-sabotage checks.
4. To upgrade training centres to upgrade quality of training to Railway Protection Force personnel including their Intelligence Orientation.
5. Intensive publicity and public awareness compaigns alterting and educating all passengers/public to remain vigilant against any unidentified/unclaimed suspicious objects lying on platforms, other premises or coaches and to report to RPF/GRP/Railway officials available nearby.
6. Frequent announcement at all stations alerting passengers to be vigilant about suspicious movement of co-passengers and not to touch any suspicious luggage/bag especially in general compartments.
7. Steps to prevent entry of unauthorised persons in trains and in empty coaching rakes at originating/destination stations, before and after placement in maintenance sidings.
8. Close co-ordination with GRP/State Police/Central Intelligence agencies to prevent any untoward incident.
9. The contact telephone number of concerned high officials of Security Directorate, Railway Board have been inserted in All India Railway Time Table *i.e.* 'Trains-at-a-Glance' for assisting the passengers in need of immediate help.
10. The Railways are also in the process of preparing contingency plans at the Divisional Railway level to deal with contingencies arising out of sudden bomb blasts. These plans; will be put into operation jointly with the help of State Police and Government Railway Police (GRP).